

USDA Deputy Secretary Announces Support for Rural Economic Development Projects Across The Country

Kansas City, MO, Sept. 23, 2010 –Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan today announced the selection of 86 projects to receive loans and grants to create jobs and spur economic development in rural communities in 30 states, Guam and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Merrigan made the announcement during a speech to the Agricultural Business Council in Kansas City.

“The assistance we are providing today will build a stronger economic future for rural areas, including communities in Kansas and Missouri,” Merrigan said. “It is an example of the ways in which the Obama Administration is helping strengthen the nation's rural communities by providing a foundation for job creation and economic growth.”

For example, the White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. in southwest Missouri will use a \$740,000 Rural Economic Development Loan and a \$300,000 Rural Economic Development Grant to provide a loan to the Gainesville school district to help finance a biomass energy system and energy efficiency improvements to the high school campus. The project will result in a substantial reduction in energy costs and use forest product waste materials to produce energy. The cost savings afforded by the project will help save an estimated 104 jobs.

In Kansas, the Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Mankato has been selected to receive a \$740,000 Rural Economic Development Loan to be used to construct a new facility for Concordia Tractor, Inc. This 54,600 sq. ft. building will provide space for the company's expansion. The project is expected to save 35 jobs and create six jobs in Concordia.

The Magnolia Electric Power Association in Mississippi has been selected to receive a \$740,000 Rural Economic Development Loan to be used to finance a 20,000 square-foot feed mill expansion project and purchase machinery for the Gatlin Corporation. The mill manufactures cattle, horse, and hog feed. In addition, the company offers bagged commodities such as corn, oats, wheat, cotton and seed. The facility will be located in Lincoln County, Mississippi. The project will create an estimated ten jobs.

Today's announcement also includes a Business and Industry guaranteed loan award in Hawaii to Big Island Carbon. The company has been selected to receive a \$5 million award to construct a manufacturing plant that will convert macadamia nut shells into activated charcoal. The end-use application for the activated charcoal is in the ultra capacitor (hybrid car power units) market, catalyst support market and chemical and pharmaceutical markets. Additionally, the gas and biofuels created from the conversion of nut shells will be used to off-set the project's total energy needs. The project, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), is expected to save and create an estimated 30 jobs in Hawaii.

The \$117.8 million in funding announced today including \$87 million from the Recovery Act, is being provided through four USDA Rural Development programs: the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program, the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program, the Intermediary Relending Program, and the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant

Program. Each program provides financial assistance to businesses, community-based development or regional planning groups, intermediaries and non-profit groups for projects that strengthen rural economies and create jobs.

Funding of each recipient is contingent upon the borrower or recipient meeting the conditions of the loan agreement. For a complete list of applicants that were selected to receive USDA Rural Development economic development funds, please click [here](#).

Through its Rural Development mission area, USDA administers and manages more than 40 housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a network of 6,100 employees located in the nation's capital and 500 state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers, and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$142 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (Recovery Act)		
State	Recipient/Borrower	Award
Arkansas	CPI Holdings, LLC; Arkansas Capital Corporation	\$2,000,000
Arkansas	Custom Tool & Die, Inc.; First Security Bank	\$750,000
California	Feather River Recreation & Parks District; Butte Community Bank	\$3,120,000
California	Timothy & Barbara Baloian Living Trust	\$4,800,000
Florida	Hibernia Enterprises; Horizon Bank	\$2,500,000
Georgia	Mai Services, LLC and Mai Trucking, LLC and MMTM, LLC; Bank of Camilla	\$5,000,000
Georgia	Mai Services, LLC and Mai Trucking, LLC and MMTM, LLC; Bank of Camilla	\$5,000,000
Georgia	AgStrong Oils, LLC; Pinnacle Bank	\$2,622,575
Hawaii	Big Island Carbon, LLC; Synergy Bank, S.S.B.	\$5,000,000
Louisiana	Consolidated Energy Holdings, LLC; The Union Bank	\$9,000,000
Massachusetts	Organic Renaissance, LLC; Massdevelopment	\$390,000
Mississippi	Twin Creek Technologies Equipment Leasing Company, LLC; Silicon Valley Bank	\$7,500,000

Missouri	CAH Acquisition Co. 6, LLC; First Liberty Bank-Oklahoma City	\$9,300,000
New York	Stone Mill of Little Falls, LLC; GPO Federal Credit Union	\$650,000
North Carolina	Tarboro Medical Building Company, LLC; Southern Bank and Trust Company	\$2,800,000
North Carolina	CAH Acquisition #1; Randolph Bank & Trust	\$10,000,000
Puerto Rico	Riago, Inc.; Scotiabank Of Puerto Rico	\$2,125,000
Tennessee	King Business Forms Corp; TN Business & Industrial Development COR	\$3,000,000
Texas	Smith Gin Co-op; First State Bank	\$7,161,120
Vermont	Brattleboro Cooperative Inc.; People's United Bank	\$4,228,750
Rural Business Enterprise Grant (Recovery Act)		
Georgia	<i>North Georgia Technical College:</i> The funds will be used for preliminary site work for a building to house the college welding program.	\$54,531 grant
Guam	<i>The Guam Museum Foundation, Inc:</i> The funds will be used for a training conference to teach small businesses how to capitalize on and benefit from the revitalization of Guam's culture, history, and arts.	\$27,400 grant
New York	<i>Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks:</i> The funds will be used to support the employment of three to five energy efficiency specialists to work as Community Energy Efficiency Managers (CEEM) for one year.	\$69,000 grant
Oregon	<i>Lane Council of Governments:</i> The funds will be used to establish a new revolving loan fund to make loans	\$99,999 grant

	to small businesses in rural Lane County.	
Oregon	<i>Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments:</i> The funds will be used to establish a new revolving loan fund to make loans to small businesses in Linn ounty	\$99,000 grant
Intermediary Relending Program		
California	Economic Development Corporation	\$340,000 loan
California	Sierra Economic Development Corporation	\$500,000 loan
California	Superior California Economic Development	\$500,000 loan
Colorado	Colorado Lending Source, LTD	\$300,000 loan
Colorado	Funding Partners for Housing Solutions, Inc.	\$262,296 loan
Iowa	Appanoose Economic Development Corporation	\$500,000 loan
Iowa	Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission	\$128,000 loan
Missouri	Meramac Regional Planning Commission	\$175,000 loan
Montana	Jobs Now	\$500,000 loan
Montana	Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation	\$750,000 loan
Nebraska	Northeast Economic Development, Inc.	\$750,000 loan
New York	Ulster County Development Corporation	\$600,000 loan
North Carolina	North Carolina Minority Support Center	750,000 loan
North Carolina	Advancement Regional Business Lenders, Inc.	\$750,000 loan
Ohio	Southern Ohio Growth Partnership, Inc.	\$750,000 loan
Ohio	Neighborhood Development Services, Inc.	\$500,000 loan
Pennsylvania	Centre County Industrial Development Corporation	\$500,000 loan
Pennsylvania	Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation	\$500,000 loan
South Carolina	Pee Dee Community Development Corporation	\$750,000 loan
South Dakota	West River Foundation	\$750,000 loan

South Dakota	Northeast Council of Governments Development Corporation	\$750,000 loan
South Dakota	Neighborhood Housing Services of the Black Hills, Inc.	\$750,000 loan
Tennessee	Southeast Tennessee Development District	\$750,000 loan
Vermont	Vermont Small Business Development Corporation	\$750,000 loan
Vermont	VT 504 Corporation	\$750,000 loan
Washington	ShoreBank Enterprise Cascadia	\$750,000 loan
Wisconsin	CAP Services, Inc.	\$262,296 loan
Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program		
Illinois	Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative	\$500,000 loan
Iowa	Keosauqua Light & Power	\$300,000 grant
Iowa	Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$300,000 grant
Iowa	Eastern Iowa Light & Power	\$165,000 grant
Iowa	Greenfield Municipal Utilities	\$300,000 grant
Iowa	Graettinger Municipal Light Plant	\$300,000 grant
Iowa	Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative	\$200,000 loan
Kansas	Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$300,000 grant
Kansas	Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Concordia Tractor, Inc.)	\$740,000 loan
Kansas	Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (City of Concordia)	\$740,000 loan
Kentucky	South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation	\$740,000 loan
Kentucky	South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation	\$262,000 loan
Kentucky	South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (Russell County)	\$300,000 grant
Kentucky	South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (Wayne County Hospital)	\$300,000 grant
Minnesota	North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$300,000 grant
Minnesota	Renville Sibley Cooperative Power Association	\$260,000 grant
Minnesota	Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$93,000 grant
Minnesota	Upsala Cooperative Telephone Association	\$740,000 loan
Minnesota	Consolidated Telephone Company	\$740,000 loan
Mississippi	Magnolia Electric Power Association	\$740,000 loan
Missouri	White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Gainesville Public School Foundation)	\$740,000 loan
Missouri	White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Port Hospitality, LLC)	\$740,000 loan
Missouri	Howell-Oregon Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$300,000 grant
Missouri	White River Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$300,000 grant
Nebraska	Dawson Public Power District	\$300,000 grant
Nebraska	Midwest Electric Cooperative Corporation	\$740,000 loan
North Carolina	Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation	\$740,000 loan

North Dakota	Northwest Communications Cooperative	\$300,000 grant
North Dakota	KEM Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$450,000 loan
South Carolina	West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc	\$740,000 loan
South Carolina	Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$500,000 loan
South Carolina	West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc	\$500,000 loan
Tennessee	Appalachian Electric Cooperative	\$250,000 grant
Tennessee	Gibson Electric Membership Corporation	\$287,572 loan